

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00495 040958Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 040700Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0495

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD (BEIRUT ONLY FOR BAGHDAD)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GULF OIL PRODUCERS PRIOR TO OPEC SUMMIT

REF: STATE 045225

1. AS FAR AS GETTING WORD TO UAEG BEFORE THE OPEC SUMMIT IS CONCERNED, REFTEL MISSED THE BOAT. APPROACH SHOULD PROPERLY HAVE BEEN MADE TO EITHER FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI OR MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA, BOTH OF WHOM DEPARTED FOR ALGIERS 48 HOURS BEFORE INSTRUCTIONS WERE RECEIVED. SINCE SHAIKH ZAYID DOES NOT CONCERN HIMSELF TOO MUCH WITH INTRICACIES OF OIL POLICY, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO GO OVER THIS GROUND WITH HIS TWO KEY MINISTERS. NEVERTHELESS, FEELING THAT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO CONVEY OUR VIEWS AT AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL TO SOMEONE WHO WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO ALGIERS CONFERENCE, UPON RECEIPT REFTEL I PUT IN REQUEST TO SEE SHAIKH ZAYID, WHO RETURNED FROM PAKISTAN ABOUT A WEEK AGO. ZAYID WAS UNFORTUNATELY IN AL-AIN MARCH 1 AND 2, AND DEPARTED EARLY MARCH 3 FOR TRIPOLI AND ALGIERS. AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRESIDENTIAL DIWAN ALI SHURAFI COVEYED SHAIKH ZAYID'S REGRETS AND HOPES THAT HE

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WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR LONG TALK WITH ME SOON AFTER HE RETURNED

FROM ALGIERS. I TRIED TO GIVE GIST OF CONTENTS OF REFTEL TO SHURAF
TO BE CONVEYED TO SHAIKH ZAYID, BUT IN CONFUSION OF AIRPORT DEPARTURE
CEREMONIES, I AM NOT SURE HOW MUCH OF MESSAGE WILL GET THROUGH.

2. WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR RETURN OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER
OF PETROLEUM TO "OPEN DIALOGUE" AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. APPROACH
WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE IN OUR JUDGMENT IF IT HAD BEEN MADE
WELL BEFORE OPEC SUMMIT AT TIME WHEN POSITIONS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
WERE STILL BEING FORMULATED AND THERE WOULD BE CHANCE OF
INFLUENCING UAEG INPUT INTO OPEC POLICY ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER
NEGOTIATIONS. WE DO NOT SEE WHY THIS HAD TO BE MADE A LAST MINUTE
RUSH PROPOSITION, ESPECIALLY SINCE INSTRUCTIONS SAY ONLY WHAT
SECRETARY HIMSELF OUTLINED FOR US VERBALLY AT ARP CHIEFS OF MISSION
CONFERENCE FULL TWO WEEKS AGO.
STERNER

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NNN

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